GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2001
VIOLATION OF INDIAN AIR SPACE BY PAKISTAN
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `2 Pak aircraft violate Indian airspace` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated February 20, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the intruded planes were spotted by Army and not by the Airforce;

(c) if so, the reasons as to how the planes escaped detection by IAF;

(d) the steps taken to plug the loopholes and to upgrade the vigil on the border posts;

(e) whether the Pakistani aircraft have been violating Indian airspace in J&K;

(f) if so, the details of such violations recorded during the last two years; and
(g) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such violations of Indian airspace?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 275 FOR 15.3.2001

The Government is aware of the News item captioned `Pak violates Indian airspace thrice` appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 20th February, 2001.

On the 19th of February 2001, two Pakistani Army reconnaissance aircraft violated Indian airspace in the Chhamb Sector, which was spotted by the Army.

There are set procedures to detect intruding aircraft, either visually or by radars. The visual sighting could be either by the observers of defence forces or para military organizations. These two intruding aircraft flew into the Indian airspace at ultra low level, to evade detection by radars. However, the observers, deployed by the Army, in the area, were vigilant and they sighted these intruders, visually.

Efforts are being made to strengthen the vigil in the border area, by inducting various types of surveillance equipment.

During the years 2000 and 2001, there have been 13 and 2 air violations, respectively by Pakistani aircraft in the J&K Sector.